

## Commissioner's Weekly Wrap Up

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DCS Communications Office

**June 11, 2004**

### **This Week In Central Office**

#### Tuesday, June 8

Commissioner Miller was the keynote speaker at the Tennessee Youth Advisory Council Conference at Montgomery Bell State Park in Dickson, TN.

#### Thursday, June 10

Commissioner Miller gave brief remarks to the Tennessee State Employee Association (TSEA) representative assembly at the Marriott Cool Springs Convention Center just outside of Nashville.

### **The Week Ahead**

#### Monday, June 14

Commissioner Miller will attend this month's Governor's Children's Cabinet meeting in Nashville.

#### Wednesday, June 16

Commissioner Miller will attend the Annual Children's Caucus at the State Capitol Building in Nashville.

### **Don't forget to tell us who you are!**



When submitting your monthly events for posting on the Internet calendar, please remember to include the following information:

- ✓ County and region
- ✓ Name and phone number of MAIN contact person
- ✓ Time, Date, Location and Purpose of event

We are thrilled with the number of events posted, but are experiencing difficulty when trying to reach the organizers of the events listed!

## Spotlight: Wilder Youth Development Center

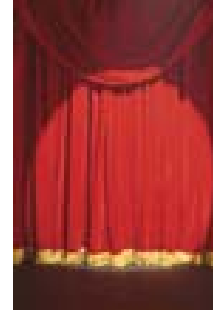
*The Fayette Falcon, June 2, 2004*

### *Wilder YDC Relay For Life Luncheon Raises \$582.00*

The staff at Wilder Youth Development Center held a barbeque luncheon on Wednesday that raised \$582.00 for Relay for Life. The luncheon was held from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. with about 100 people served.

"The turnout was great", said Clara Harris, coordinator of the event. "The Wilder staff are really dedicated to the community and its charities," she continued. "There were a great number of people from off campus who were served and we are especially grateful to them. It was just a great day," she said.

All money from Relay for Life activities goes to the American Cancer Society. The Wilder Youth Development Center has been an active participant for years and has contributed greatly to the totals that Fayette County has donated to the charity.



## Reminder: Submit Your Ideas for the Summer Trim Down

Do you crave more time to do good quality work and wish to be rid of the hassles of unnecessary procedures and paperwork? Do you believe there are areas within our agency that we could "trim down" the process? If you answered yes, then put on your thinking cap. We need your help!

Senior management needs your assistance in identifying forms, policies, and procedures that you believe do not add any value to your work, and could possibly be abolished. Everything is open for consideration; however, items that are mandated by a federal statute, a state statute or a consent decree obviously cannot be included in this effort.



Email your suggestions to [DCS.Challenge@state.tn.us](mailto:DCS.Challenge@state.tn.us) and please be as specific as possible in referencing the policy or procedure you wish to be considered in this "trim down". Submit your ideas and suggestions as soon as possible, however they need to be received by the close of business on June 30th.

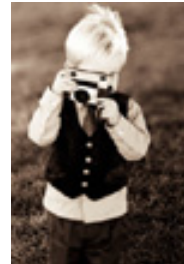
## Calling All Models ... this could be your big break!

The Department of Health's WIC (Women, Infants & Children) program, will this year celebrate its 30th year of helping our community. WIC is a program of nutritional assistance for children under five years old and their mothers who qualify. ECD's Creative Services division has been asked to create a new series of outreach posters for the WIC program, and they need your help!

ECD will need a range of models to use in photographs for the posters. **They are looking specifically for three women aged 21-30; three children aged 3-5, and three infants between six and 15 months old. Models of all ethnicities (African-American, Asian, Caucasian, Hispanic) are needed.**



The State is trying hard to save taxpayer dollars, so ECD is looking for volunteers; however, a full set of studio-quality photographs to each chosen model will be provided. If you, your child, or someone you know is looking to make a break in modeling or show business, this will be a very high-profile opportunity.



If you'd like to be considered for one of our modeling positions, we're scheduling auditions. Please contact:

**Nancy Maynard, Production Coordinator**  
ECD Creative Services Division  
9th Floor Tennessee Tower  
312 Eighth Avenue North  
Nashville, TN 37243  
(615) 253-1950

## The Media: Reach out, build relationships and reap the benefits

As you plan your foster/adopt recruitment events and various other community activities, please do not forget to solicit the interest of your local media. Local print and radio outlets can be a wonderful way to get your message out and spread the good news about the new DCS!

Building strong relationships with your local media is key to receiving positive news coverage when times are good and getting honest coverage when times are not so good.

Also, remember that the DCS Communications Team is always here to help you with your media needs, inquiries and requests.

For more information on how to reach out to your local media, call or email Margie Maddux @ 615.532.5645 / [Margie.Maddux@state.tn.us](mailto:Margie.Maddux@state.tn.us)

*From the Desk of Viola Miller: Why do children 'sicken' in care?*

Let's come clean... let's be upfront...let's tell the truth, as we know it. Children coming into state custody, not just in Tennessee, but in the nation...too often "get worse" or "sicken" in our care. Why...when we try so hard to meet their needs?

We work diligently all day, everyday, to keep our kids safe, to move them toward permanency, to attend to their physical, emotional and educational needs. Why do they get sicker? This conundrum plagues our waking hours.

With deep humility and great caution, I think I know the answer: Children do not exist in isolation. The vast majority of our response to children is focused on their needs for treatment or placement or services. I think we have it wrong. All the psychological, psychiatric, educational & physical interventions in the world cannot help our kids get better instead of sicker.

Only when we realize that kids exist in the context of families...and more specifically in the context of a primary caregiver...can we really begin to address our children's well being.

Reading case after case after case of children in care over many years, what I see is a focus of treatment on the child. I am convinced, beyond

any reasonable doubt, that we must focus our treatment of the child as a part of a dyad...the child with a loving adult. **Only when we realize that our children can only flourish in a loving relationship...only in that relationship and the ability to relate...can our children become healthy and get "better".**

I am worn out with our children being treated with a pharmacopoeia of drugs. I am worn out with I.Q. scores that measure only grief. I am worn out with our ignorance of the essential nature of childhood. Children cannot grow without the love and nurture of adults.

How do I end this essay? What words can focus us clinically on the very nature of childhood? Children cannot be whole ... they cannot flourish ... they cannot grow to productive adulthood unless someone, somewhere loves them unconditionally.

**We all need love when we least deserve it.** How can we create an environment in which children are loved no matter what...no matter how much they try to test that love...no matter how horribly they behave? Without a responsible adult who will provide stability, consistency and love, they will sicken.

Surely we can do better.



Through faith man experiences the meaning of the world; through action he is to give to it meaning.

~Leo Braeck

How desperately difficult it is to be honest with Oneself. It is much easier to be honest with other people.

~Edward F. Benson

A man who dares to waste one hour of life has not discovered the value of life.

~Charles Darwin

No task is so humble that it does not offer an outlet for individuality.

~William Feather

I don't fear failure. I only fear the slowing up of the engine inside of me which is pounding, saying, 'Keep going, someone must be on top, why not you?'

~George S. Patton

There comes a moment when you have to stop revving up the car and shove it into gear.

~David Mahoney

A man must consider what a rich realm he abdicates when he becomes a conformist.

~Ralph Waldo Emerson

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